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TRAINING JOURNAL

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF TRAINING EXCELLENCE

THE GRAFENWOEHR 100 YEAR LEGACY OF BIODIVERSITY

BY MARGIT RANZ,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

A VISUAL HISTORY OF THE GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
COL. CHRIS SORENSON,
COMMANDER, U.S. ARMY
GARRISON GRAFENWOEHR

GRAFENWOEHR: THEN, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

BY BRIG. GEN. STEVEN L. SALAZAR,
COMMANDING GENERAL
7TH U.S. ARMY JMTC

GRAFENWOEHR FROM 1966 TO 2010; A GERMAN CIVILIAN'S ACCOUNT

BY DENVER MAKLE,
JMTC PUBLIC AFFAIRS





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JMTC COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Grafenwoehr: excellence then, now and in the future.

By Brig. Gen. Steven L. Salazar

TODAY, GRAFENWOEHR HAS BECOME SO MUCH MORE THAN A GREAT PLACE TO TRAIN. FOR THE U.S. ARMY, IT IS NOW THE LARGEST ARMY INSTALLATION IN EUROPE.

During its first 100-years, the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA) has seen some incredibly interesting times.

These gates have welcomed military greats, such as Patton, Westmoreland, and Powell. Infamous figures, such as, Hitler and Mussolini, and Horthy were here too; but, perhaps the best remembered personality to visit the GTA ranges was Sgt. Elvis Presley, "The King of Rock and Roll, who visited the training area for maneuvers and training, between 1958 and 1960.

The staple of our proud history is the hundreds of thousands of Soldiers that have come year-after-year, U.S. and multinational forces, to train because of GTA's premiere training facilities and reputation for training excellence.

The GTA has always been a "world-class" place to train. For nearly 50-years, every unit in U.S. Army Europe came here to train. During the Cold War, forces in Europe were a quarter-million strong, and training these Soldiers was a continuous and compelling process. When the Wall came down, GTA stood as the centerpiece of European Theater Security and Cooperation, developing relationships with so many of our friends and partners in the region. Each revealed its character following the attacks of 9/11, now a coalition of 44 Nations in Afghanistan.

For our NATO partners and allies across Europe Grafenwoehr is the center of training excellence. The place of shared experiences, during rain, snow, dust or knee-deep mud. We are now focused on supporting NATO efforts in Afghanistan, while helping numerous armies across Europe build capacity and develop professionally.

Today, Grafenwoehr is not only a great place to train. Its also a great place to live. For the U.S. Army, it is now the largest installation in Europe, and home to more than 40,000 Soldiers and family members. We're no longer just a training area. We are a military community in the great state of Bavaria.

Tomorrow and well into the next 100-years, the Grafenwoehr Military Community will continue to represent excellence. In addition to being environmentally responsible, it is a world-class training resource for the U.S., German and NATO Armies. It is recognized as a symbol of military professionalism and competence. It is an enduring place that fosters friendships and partnerships. Grafenwoehr is a great community for our Army families to live and thrive.

It is indeed "great to be at Graf!" Prost and Cheers to another 100 Years!

As we mark this historic anniversary, we remember the contributions of the GTA over these 100 years, while we look to the future and commence the next 100-years of training excellence.

Ready Thru Training!



Steven L. Salazar
STEVEN L. SALAZAR
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding



JMTC COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S COLUMN

NCOS' TRANSFORM MULTI-NATIONALS: BUILD U.S. CORPS

By Command Sgt. Maj. Darieus A. ZaGara

The history of the GTA is as complex as that of the American Noncommissioned officer (NCO). Like the American Army itself, with its blended traditions of the French, British, and Prussian armies, the GTA continues to transform into a unique place where training and community merge to become the Grafenwoehr Military Community.

During the past 100 years, uniforms changed, facilities were renovated, and units have come and gone; however, the unwavering dedication of professional NCOs remains, those who see it as their sole purpose to train Soldiers for any mission, anytime and anywhere.

The NCOs at JMTC don't just train U.S. Soldiers. A key component of what we do is to train our multinational partners. All training at the JMTC's Combined Arms Training Center, the NCO Academy, Joint Multinational Readiness Center, or elsewhere, has a multinational flavor. The JMTC is the only place in the U.S. Army where U.S. Forces and partner-nations regularly train together.

The example our NCOs set is especially important for the NCOs of our multinational partners as they continue to transform and strengthen their own professional NCO Corps'. The JMTC has the right resources to train foreign nations and, make their NCOs the "backbone" of their armies and valuable members of the team as they are standard-bearers for their organizations.

As leaders of warriors, there is no greater responsibility, or honor, than to train Soldiers. As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the training area, let us remember the NCOs who came before us, those who helped to transform the GTA into a state-of-the-art facility, while also reflecting on how we meet the needs of today's Army.

Ready Thru Training!

Darieus A. ZaGara
DARIEUS A. ZAGARA
Command Sergeant Major, USA
JMTC CSM



THE ARMY'S OLDEST NCO ACADEMY SHOULD BE THE FIRST STOP FOR SOME AFTER DEPLOYMENT

By Master Sgt. Jody R. Heikkinen,
Chief of Training at the 7th Army NCOA

Since some Soldiers may not have completed the first level of the NCO Education System because of a 12-to-15 month deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan. Upon re-deployment, Soldiers returning from combat operations are given priority to attend the 7th Army Non-commissioned Officers Academy (7th Army NCOA).

Upon returning to their USAREUR-based unit, Soldiers have seven days of re-integration training then a maximum leave period is scheduled. Following the mandated 45-days of leave these Soldiers are allowed to attend professional military training and receive 90-days of priority over non-deployed USAREUR-based Soldiers to attend training.

"This is a good time for Soldiers to take this training," said Sgt. Major Antonio R. Reyes, Deputy Commandant at the 7th Army NCOA. "It is a good way to get the Soldiers in the mind-set of doing the things required of them in Garrison, like writing NCO Evaluation Reports (NCOERs), suicide prevention for junior leaders and counseling Soldiers."

Because junior Soldiers are likely to report to the NCOA with a couple of deployments, already under their belts, when they arrive for the 15-day Warrior Leader Course (WLC), they provide great insight regarding current information and lessons learned.

"The training Soldiers receive during WLC helps young NCOs develop self discipline and professional ethics, while also demonstrating the skills and knowledge for leading, disciplining, and developing Soldiers, said Command Sergeant Major Hu Rhodes, commandant of the 7th Army NCOA. "The cadre can adjust certain tactical experiences based-on student feedback and experience. One of the most common is the use of IED simulations during tactical training."

IED's evolve daily in the contemporary operation environment, and lectures are outdated if they are more than 30 days old. So, the cadre utilizes the Center for Army Lessons

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11.

FEATURE

One hundred years of history, one premier community

By Herbert Steinbeck, U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr, Public Works

During the last century, the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA) has changed from a small German artillery and maneuver training area into the premier U.S. Army training base outside the continental United States.

Originally established to support the artillery and maneuver training of the soldiers assigned to the 3rd Bavarian Army Corps, the training area boundary covered approximately 9,100 hectares (22,486 acres) and extended from Grafenwoehr to Weihern to Haag and Hammergmünd. When construction on the training area started, more than 230 people from eight villages had to be relocated.



In 1935, the GTA was expanded extensively to its current size of 22,600 hectares (56,000 acres) with about 20,900 hectares (51,650 acres) of land dedicated to training.

Grafenwoehr became a key artillery, tank and maneuver testing and training area to support the growth and expansion of the German Army prior to World War II. The expansion effort included the "Suedlager" or South Camp at Rose Barracks and affected people from 58 villages spread over 17 political communities.

In May 1945, after the surrender of Germany, the U.S. Army occupied the GTA and established a tank training area in 1947. In 1948, the installation was assigned to the 7th Army and designated a tank training center.

Between 1951 and 1953, the camp was renovated to the form and structure seen today. The construction projects completed in this time frame included, among others, the field camps Tunesia, Cheb, Kasserine, Aachen, Algiers and Normandy. These facilities could house 42,000 troops.

In 1959 the tank training center became the Seventh Army Training Center (7ATC), supervising 7ATC's major training areas (Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels & Wildflecken) and the 7th Army Combined Arms Training Center at Rose Barracks. Its primary mission was to prepare the U.S. forces for the

imminent attack of Soviet forces from Eastern Europe.

Since 1976 Grafenwoehr has been the Headquarters of the 7th U.S. Army Training Command (HQ 7ATC), which provides training to the U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR).

In 2005 it became the command element for the Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTTC) comprising the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Combat Maneuver Training Center (CMTC) in Hohenfels, the Combined Arms Training Center in Vilseck, and the Training Support Activity, Europe. The JMTTC assists the militaries of the former Warsaw Pact countries and Russia in transforming their forces and our NATO allies in preparation for current conflicts. At the same time, CMTC transformed into the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC). Additionally, the JMTTC's 7th Army NCO Academy at Grafenwoehr trains hundreds of allied and partner nations' Non-commissioned officers every month.

Changes in training requirements, technology and doctrine as well as command and control procedures during the past 25 years resulted in the execution of several construction programs, to include:

- Complete major upgrade of ranges in the early 1980s caused by the introduction of new technologies such as the M1 Abrams tank and the new generation of helicopters.
- Expansion of Rose Barracks occurred in the mid-1980s to accommodate the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division.
- Even more remarkable is the execution of the Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr (EB-G) construction program in 2001. When all EB-G construction is completed in 2011, U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr will transform from a non-tactical training support garrison into the premier army training base outside the continental United States and the home to a brigade combat team and its enabling assets.

Part of the transformation is the construction of seven motor pools with 28 company operation buildings, battalion and brigade administration areas, 12 barracks with 154 "1+1" spaces, built-to-lease housing, a child development center, a youth activity center, an elementary and middle school, physical fitness centers, a community service center, a traumatic brain injury clinic, and a centralized post exchange and commissary complex.

These modern, flexible and innovative facilities create an enhanced working environment and community where 3,800 Soldiers and 6,800 family members enjoy a high standard of living. One hundred years has brought many changes to the Grafenwoehr Training Area, but one fact remains irrefutable – Grafenwoehr is Europe's premier installation to live, work and train.

FEATURE

Grafenwoehr terrain depiction, then and now

by Col. Stephen S. Seitz, JMTTC Director of Simulation and Training Support

One hundred years ago, maps were enhanced by aerial photography taken from balloons above the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA). As technology improved, maps were more accurate and new terrain products emerged. So units can train more effectively with realistic terrain, the Joint Multinational Simulation Center has a Terrasim Team that creates "geospecific" terrain for applications. For example, geospecific terrain can enhance Virtual Battlespace 2, a game-based simulation used for small unit training; Virtual Reality Scene Generator, which provides unmanned aerial system over-flight capability for constructive exercises to train staffs; Deployable Instrumentation System Europe (DISE), which Training Support Activity Europe (TSAE) employs for live-instrumented training. The DISE operators track Soldiers and vehicles by satellite, and can play-back their locations during after-action reviews.

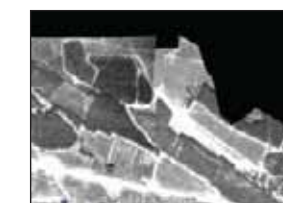
The TSAE Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Team also supports training with kiosks that print custom training area maps. The Army Range Mapper provides access to training area imagery and a powerful suite of geospatial tools. The ITAM Viewer is easy-to-use software for building custom maps and imagery. The ITAM Flight Simulator allows users to control speed, direction and altitude, as they "fly" through Grafenwoehr.



Above and inset: This map of the Grafenwoehr Training Area above is the issue Elvis was using, during his second visit to the GTA in 1960, as the Cold War in Europe was heating up. Photo courtesy of the Cultural and Military Museum Grafenwoehr.



Upper left: Soldiers and artillery observers training at the GTA in 1912. Above: This 1912 map was one of the first available to the soldiers training at the Grafenwoehr Training Area. Photo courtesy of the Cultural and Military Museum Grafenwoehr. Left: A screen capture of GTA Range 211 "geospecific" terrain created for small unit gaming-based training using Virtual Battlespace 2. Images courtesy of JMSC.



Above: Aerial photography shows the development of the Grafenwoehr Main Post and the Netzberg military community. The comparison shows how imagery has improved, and how Grafenwoehr has developed. On the left, aerial photos taken in 1963; on the right, photos taken in 2008.



The TSAE provides ways to create custom terrain products with their ITAM viewer.



The TSAE Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Team also supports training with kiosks that print custom training area maps. ITAM also provides raised relief maps. Images courtesy of TSAE.



JMTC WEB WATCH



EXPLORE THE MILITARY HISTORY OF THE GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA (GTA) ONLINE AT WWW.HQJMTC.ARMY.MIL/GRAFENWOEHR100.HTML

The JMTC's Web site celebrates the amazing 100-year history of the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

The special section includes:

- VIDEO DOCUMENTARIES AND COMMENTARIES
- PHOTO ARCHIVES AND SLIDESHOWS
- ANIMATED TIMELINE TOUR THROUGH THE TRAINING AREAS PAST.



WWW.MUSEUM-GRAFENWOEHR.COM

Why you should bookmark it:

The Grafenwoehr Cultural and Military Museum, located on the Untere Torstrasse in downtown Grafenwoehr maintains a permanent collection of uniforms, weapons, photos, films and unusual relics that spotlight the history of the training area from 1900 to present. Special exhibitions illustrate the Grafenwoehr Training Area's colorful past, memoirs and artifacts from every decade with insightful views into the lives of the Soldiers who trained there over the past century and a special corner of the museum is dedicated to one of Grafenwoehr's most famous visitors, Sgt. Elvis Presley. In English & German. For more information visit the museum online.



WWW.GRAF-TRAININGAREABOOK.COM

Why you should bookmark it:

This Web site highlights "Grafenwoehr Training Area, Yesterday and Today." It offers the viewer an extensive and meticulously researched look at the training area's colorful past, as presented by the local author and Bundeswehr officer. The site is comprehensive and easy to navigate, includes many interesting historic Grafenwoehr Training Area never-before-published photos. Translations are in English and German.



WWW.HISTORY.HQUSAREUR.ARMY.MIL

Why you should bookmark it:

The United States Army Europe Military History Office (MHO) has created a Web site that both teaches and entertains simultaneously. Using fascinating visual materials, including maps, official documents, publications and photographs, the MHO Web site is a treasure trove of U.S. Army, Europe and Cold War history. more information on the history of the GTA.



FEATURE

100th Anniversary spotlights legacy of biodiversity

By Margit Ranz, U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr, Public Works

STUDIES SHOW GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA (GTA) IS A UNIQUE HAVEN FOR PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

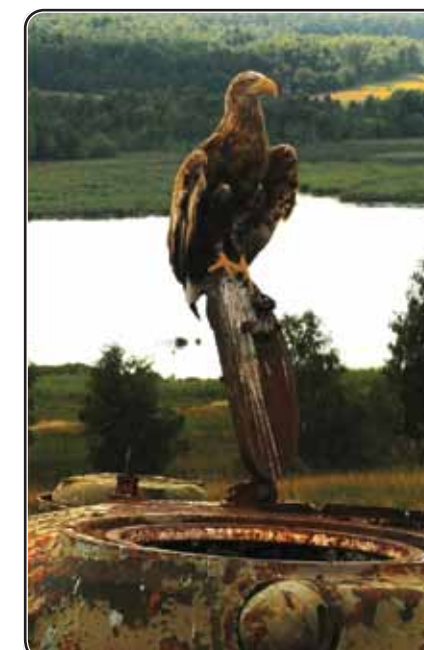
This year, 2010, is not only the 100th Anniversary of the GTA, it was also proclaimed as the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations. Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth, including all the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their habitats, and the variety of the genes.

The world is currently experiencing an extraordinary loss in species richness. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the world is witnessing the greatest extinction crisis since dinosaurs disappeared from our planet 65 million years ago.

Facing this serious problem, is there anything that can be done on the GTA to support biodiversity? Many rare animal and plant species already exist here. A total number of 3,010 different plant and animal species were recorded in a recent study, of those, 770 of them threatened or endangered. Experts on rare species rated Grafenwoehr Training Area to be a refuge of extraordinarily high value, especially for birds and moths.

The most famous example is the white-tailed eagle. It was extinct in Bavaria, but on GTA this impressive bird has found a new home. Since its migrated back to GTA, it has been successfully breeding for several years. But why do rare animals thrive on a training area? According to Dr. Steven Warren, former Director of the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands at Colorado State University, biodiversity is highest in areas with many different types of disturbance. In other words, biodiversity benefits from the co-existence of natural undisturbed lands with tremendously disturbed areas, and from many different stages between those two extremes.

This kind of landscape exactly describes military training areas. Ranging from bare soil on dig sites, sparsely covered ground at the impact areas, grassland in maneuver areas, to untouched wetlands, there exist many different types of habitats for rare species.



The German Sea Eagle, one of the many rare and endangered species that are to be found only in the protected habitat of the Grafenwoehr Training Area. Photo courtesy of the German Federal Forestry Office.

The USAG Grafenwoehr Environmental Division started a study to determine effects of military disturbances on biodiversity in 2008. The objective was to determine if military training really supports biodiversity.

Altogether the results of the study show that not only can certain species cope with the conditions in GTA, but that biodiversity as a whole benefits from the diverse landscape created by military training.

Continuing military training is the most important management recommendation species experts gave to the Environmental Division. However, with new training patterns, the positive effect on biodiversity could change. With more training being conducted with simulations nowadays, it means fewer disturbances. It is possible that additional land management activities will be necessary in the future to continue to ensure the high ecological value of the training area.

NOT JUST A TRAINING AREA, BUT A RARE WILDLIFE REFUGE

By Denver Makle, JMTC PAO

The spark from a round, or the blast of a 500-pound bomb could mean forest-fire, except the German Federal Forestry Office (FFO) at Grafenwoehr manages a successful organized system of tree planting, harvesting, and a network of firebreaks and water table controls stemming from a 100-year tradition.

"The close relationship between military training and a protected environment was recognized by the original founder of the training area, said Ulrich Maushake, federal forestry director, since 1995. "This resulted in the establishment of a military Forestry Office on April 1, 1910 by royal order of Prince Luitpold, the Regent of Bavaria.

The Forestry Sustainment Program, a program developed and funded by the U.S. Army and the German Federal Government was initiated in 1967. "There are more than 50-60 kilometers of firebreaks on the training area, their construction and maintenance are critical for reducing range fires, thereby increasing training time," said Maj. Scott Moore, chief of range operations. "The six-year program sustains and improves the conditions for optimal training, while conserving nature." Moore said. "There are species on the training area that don't exist anywhere else in the world."

For example, Grafenwoehr is the home of the largest red deer population in the region, approximately 3,000 deer are on the installation.

"The first priority is to allow the plants and animals to thrive," said Maushake. "Then, the goal is to align the military usage and conservation efforts." Through a controlled program, there are exceptional hunting opportunities at Grafenwoehr.

The FFO controls the wildlife population. Efforts simultaneously reduce the spread of disease and encroachment, while creating a healthy and effective training environment for Soldiers.

"The conservation methods and measures have reduced the amount and severity of range fires because of firebreaks and firefighting ponds and water control dams, increasing training time for troops," said Moore. "The FFO staff minimizes soil erosion, allowing training maneuvers year-round and over greater distances."

This year, as the Grafenwoehr Training Area celebrates its 100-year anniversary, so does the FFO, and to commemorate 100 years of service the FFO planted more than 200 large oak trees.



FEATURE

Grafenwoehr from 1966 to 2010; a German civilian's account

By Denver Makle, JMTC Public Affairs

HOST NATION EMPLOYEE RETIRES AFTER 44 YEARS

"I was born in Kaltenbrunn, I grew up there, and I am still living there. When I was young, about 12 years old, my playground was the training area," said Manfred Lobenhofer, long-term employee of the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr. "When we heard the first bullet or the first boom; my friends and I were there."

He recalls befriending Soldiers, who were often in the field a couple of weeks at a time.

"Growing up just outside Grafenwoehr's gates, there was day and night fire, right outside our house, in our neighborhood on the village boundary in the 60s-70s. I could see the artillery firing on a daily basis. When they fired the Honest John, a rocket, it was almost daylight at night," he said.

The youth would buy bread from the local bakery for the troops that were restricted to the training area. He remembers picking-up spent brass to trade for spending money.

No wonder, he speaks English almost as easily as his native tongue.

Lobenhofer, the human resources officer at Grafenwoehr, who manages personnel actions for more than 1,200 U.S. and 3,300 host-nation employees, has had a successful run; a 44-year career with the U.S. Army. He retires July 31.

"I went to the German-American Volksfest in '66, the CPO [Civilian Personnel Office] then had a recruitment booth at the Volksfest because they needed people. They couldn't get anybody because it was high employment - almost nobody unemployed," he said. "They even paid money if you brought someone to work for the Army. They paid \$100.00 at that time."

He submitted his application in August. In October, Lobenhofer was working as a clerk with the Engineers on post, now the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) in the Real Property section.

"One of my first major projects was to capture [document] capital improvements to the buildings," he said. For example, the post initiated a plan to convert the heating system from coal-burning to oil-burning spaceheaters. "Today you have central heating systems at all our field camps."

Likewise, he remembers when the installation installed a new street-lighting system.

"When Soldiers left the club the lights were broken, he said. "They would knock them out every night, until they closed the Pine View Club, an enlisted man's club."

It was a different time then, most of the Soldiers were here only for training, and they didn't have families here. The Pine View Club was at Camp Normandy, which is now the Range Operations building. It was a source of income for the installation, and provided entertainment for the visiting troops; however, after a night of drinking the Soldiers would knock

the lights out on-purpose, explained Lobenhofer.

By 1976, Lobenhofer realized he wasn't going to move-up working at the DPW.

"I applied for a job at the personnel office and I was selected. That's how my career got started," he said. "I see myself as one of the lucky guys, coming in as a clerk in the 60's, and then continually moving to the top of the pay scale. Many others have done the same thing. But, you can also stay in your job, all day long, all year-round, and five years or more, and you have your same pay grade."



The entrance to the Grafenwoehr Training Area circa 1966. Today the entrance shown above is known as "Gate One" and still leads directly into the Marktplatz of the city of Grafenwoehr. Photo courtesy of CATC

The U.S. Government offers some unique opportunities for host-nation employees; German citizens should consider a career with the U.S. government, he said.

"Myself, I service 3,300 local national employees and U.S. personnel. So far we have no changes to our tariff agreement, said Lobenhofer. "A lot of German companies eliminate the Christmas bonus, the Leave bonus, and they even increase the weekly work-hours without any additional compensation. Working for the U.S. Army, we still have our tariff agreement, and never had any kind of cuts."

Since 2006, the number of local national employees and U.S. citizen employees employed in the region has increased again. Statistics show the local national workforce make-up more than 60 percent of our workforce in Bavaria.

"During the past 60 years, the U.S. Army has developed a highly skilled local national workforce in a variety of areas. We don't want to give up those skill sets. We want to maintain the same level of service at the same level of efficiency as we have become used to," said Larry Gottardi, Deputy Chief of Staff, G1 (Personnel) at U.S. Army Europe in Heidelberg. "We have to communicate with the available employee

population, potential employees, that this is a worthwhile career, and we have to attract them to consider employment with the U.S. Army and U.S. Government, and help where we can to get the right people with the right skill sets, the right job."



German Secretary of Defense Helmut Schmidt is welcomed by Richard Nixon's Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird during a 1970 visit to Grafenwoehr. Schmidt would be elected German Chancellor two years later. Photo: USAREUR MHO

Gottardi said the U.S. Army is competitive with German employers because it offers developmental and training opportunities, as well as, the cultural exchange. The benefits were not always appreciated in the past.

"When Soldiers were here for training in the '60s and '70s, everybody was complaining because the bank line at that time was full of Soldiers. And later on, when there were green machines [machines for banking transactions] it was a headache for the permanent party on payday he said.

When the Army decided to upgrade Grafenwoehr as one of the enduring installations many Americans living here complained because they knew there would be drastic changes to the community. The expectation was that more people would generate more traffic and other problems associated with a larger installation. These were problems that weren't seen before.

"I remember when there were ten cars on the road, now there are 100 cars on the road. It took me 11 minutes to get to work. It takes me 20 now," he said. You just have more volume of people around you."

He thinks its good for everyone. German citizens have career opportunities they might not have otherwise, and Americans and Germans live together well.

"In the early 80s, we had to hire practically everyone who came through the gate because soldiers had to go back to their military assignments or their units," he said.

He explained in the old days that Soldiers performed a lot of the roles that are now done by civilian employees, U.S. or local national.

When a unit came to Grafenwoehr for training they had an advanced party to set-up for the training, and they went back to home station. Another group of Soldiers was left-behind to clean up, he said.

"It was called the borrowed military manpower project, and we had to bring in almost 800 German nationals on board because all the Soldiers went back to their units," he said.

Then in the 90s, the Army started to downsize.

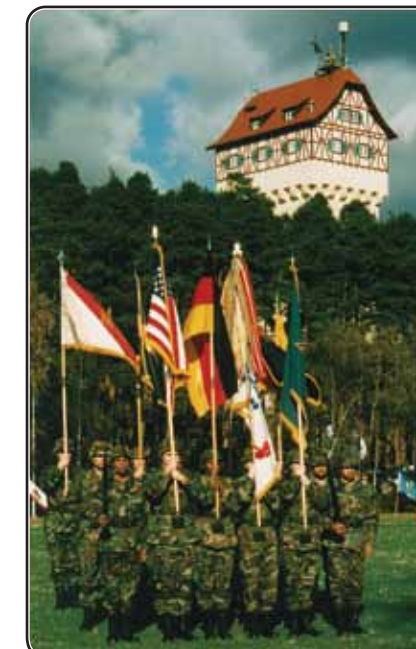
"We had a big reduction-in-force. We downsized the CPAC first from 70 slots to 35," Lobenhofer said. "Then, the Army cut across-the-board hundreds of positions. We went down pretty fast."

"It's just change," he said. People don't like change.

He retires to his hometown, just outside of Grafenwoehr, within earshot of the munitions and Soldier training, with many fond memories in tow.

"To me it is music, and it should be music to us, because we have a lot of chances here. We service, in our footprint, Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, Hohenfels and Garmisch, 3,200 local national employees. But here are actually more than the 3,200 I'm servicing in the CPAC. You still have AAFES, the Pond contractor and many other private companies, who offer jobs on post."

There are people who complain about the increased population, however, the U.S. Army is a stable employer," he said. "Grafenwoehr is the best place to be and the Army is the best company to work for," he says.



The Grafenwoehr water tower in 1999. The stand of trees that obscures most of the structure has significantly thinned out since this photograph was taken, revealing the sun dial and other interesting details of the tower's Franconian design style. Photo: Paula Gutzman, JMTC PAO

Editor's note:

Bavaria is one of the largest German states, and of all the local national employees employed within U.S. Army Europe more than two-thirds of the local national workforce is located in Bavaria at the major training areas, Hohenfels, Grafenwoehr and Vilseck.

FEATURE

Hohenfels Training Area: 72 Years in the making

By Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Hammond, Joint Multinational Readiness Center

The **Hohenfels Training Area** (HTA) was originally founded by the German Army on April 1, 1938. With approximately 544 properties and farms in the area impacted by the new site, the German resettlement organization was tasked with compensating the landowners for the land required for the training area.

Since German tradition was to name training areas after the nearest town, the training area was almost named Schmidmuhlen Troop Training Area given that the acquisition of land and the evacuation of homeowners started from the north near the town of Schmidmuhlen. However, General Ritter von Schobert, commanding general of German VII Army Corps, decided to name it Hohenfels Troop Training Area since the camps, waterworks and sewage systems were located near Hohenfels.



On April 22, 1945, American troops arrive at the Hohenfels Training Area. The U.S. Troops liberated 300 British and American Soldiers from captivity. Today, it's not uncommon to see the British or other multinational troops training at Hohenfels. Photo Courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Hammond.

To participate in training exercises, German troops from throughout the country arrived at the train station in Parsberg. The troops marched from Parsberg to the reservation where they dispersed. The Soldiers lived under extreme field conditions camping in four-man tents, with no showers, warm water for shaving and mess halls. Drinking water was carried in their canteens and food carried in their knapsacks. The entire training period was considered to be a field exercise from the moment they left the railroad station until they re-boarded the train.

Besides small arms—mortars, 20mm and 37mm anti-aircraft guns, 75mm mountain guns and 105mm field artillery pieces (howitzers) were fired in the training area. In the winter of 1939-1940, a bunker line was constructed in the Albertshof-Grossmittendorf area where German troops received training and prepared for the attack against the "Magenot Line" in France.

From late 1939 to early spring 1940, 3,000 Polish non-commissioned officers and soldiers were interned at Unter-oedenhart (location of today's 1-4 Infantry Regiment). During the fall of 1942, around 7,000 Prisoners of War (POW) from the British Empire who refused to work were

permanently billeted at the camp. During this time, each POW received a gift parcel weighing 5 kg every 14 days from the allied Red Cross. These POWs could walk freely within close vicinity of the camp. By day they traded coffee, tea, and cigarettes received in Red Cross parcels for items they needed or wanted, and returned to their quarters at sunset.

On April 22, 1945, the American Army entered the training area with nine tanks coming from Velburg/Hohenburg via Willertsheim-Albertshof releasing the British and about 300 Americans. There was no resistance from the German side. Units of the German division "Goetz von Berlichingen," as well as other units had already left moving towards Regensburg. The "Adolf Hitler Corps," billeted in Camp Poellnricht, left during the night of April 21, 1945, without fighting. However, the Hungarian troops failed to hoist a white flag, and did not give any signs of surrender. Allegedly 40-50 were killed and injured during the fighting. The U.S. tanks, with infantry following, continued unhampered through to Hohenfels, and proceeded from the Lauterach valley via Schmidmuhlen to the Naab at Burglengenfeld. The permanent party Soldiers had orders to withdraw via Roding to Cham, but those who could not reach the southern bank of the river Danube were captured near Fischbach in them Bayerischer Wald.

In 1948, the training area was opened for the resettlement of refugees and expellees from Soviet-occupied German territories. All new settlers were integrated in the community of "Hohenfels-Nainhof," which became one of the largest rural communities in Bavaria. At this time, the Bavarian Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry visited Hohenfels and emphasized that "no more will this soil be used to train men in the art of war", and "never again, so long as we live, will Hohenfels become a center for militaristic activities of any kind."

Three years later, U.S. Forces claimed the area for military training purposes, and requested its expansion to the west. In a meeting hosted August 17, 1951 at Parsberg between the German government, State Government of Bavaria, Land Commissioner of Bavaria, and U.S. Army representatives, an agreement was reached to extend the training area to the west. About 780 families, more than 3,256 persons evacuated the area as a result of this agreement, and in October 1951, the training area was increased to its current size of 40,017 acres. American units began training there in October of that year.

Compensation was made to landowners within a very short period and led to hectic activity everywhere. Lumber merchants, real estate agents, and businessmen poured in by the thousands to bid for the approximately 200 hectares of forest to be felled and hauled away.

Contractors went to work; the sound of hammers, caterpillar vehicles, cranes, bulldozers, scrapers, crusher plants and the blasting of rocks dominated for almost one year. Approximately 100 million Deutsche Marks (24 million Dollars) was spent for construction. The city of Hohenfels began to prosper when the training center opened. Roads were built, lumber cut, and real estate prices soared.

In 1952, a massive construction program was initiated in the current field camps known as Camps Albertshof, Poellnricht, Mehlhaube, and Linderberg. Motor pools were excavated; troop billets erected and mess halls built. Camps Albertshof and Poellnricht received the majority of permanent structures while Camps Melhaube and Linderberg were developed for use primarily as tent cities with the only permanent structures being the mess halls and latrine facilities. Hohenfels was experiencing its highest economic growth period in more than 1,000 years.

In January 1953, the economic boom subsided and the locals returned to their past ways, tilling the soil. The first unit to move onto the training area was Company C, 406th Engineer Battalion, and in 1955, the German Bundeswehr was founded. In 1956, the first German unit, the 5th Panzer Division, was stationed at Camp Poellnricht until their deactivation in 2001.

With the establishment of the Bundeswehr headquarters, their first task was the initiation of the 5th Armored Division, which later transferred to Koblenz, and after several months, the appointment of the first Liaison Officer to the U.S. headquarters. His staff was about 200 people, most of them citizens of Hohenfels and the surrounding communities.

In 1958, the HTA was reorganized under the Seventh Army Training Center, predecessor of the 7th Army Training Command. In March 1975, a mechanized infantry battalion of "Brigade '75" was stationed at Hohenfels pending completion of the brigade's permanent Garrison in northern Germany. "Brigade '75," later designated 3rd Brigade, 2nd Armored Division, was deployed from Ft. Hood, Texas to the European Northern Army Group of NATO. In October 1978, the battalion was moved to its northern Germany location, and two years later was relocated to Hohenfels. Additionally, the Basic Noncommissioned Officers' Course offered at the Combined Arms Training Center moved from Rose Barracks to Camp Poellnricht.

In 1984, the training area had 52 ranges within its firing and maneuver area and a Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System warehouse that held enough equipment for 15 companies. REFORGER, which was coined from RETURN of FORces to GERMANY, exercises and HAWK, a U.S. medium range surface-to-air missile, sites became primary missions for the HTA. Due to the increasing training requirements for the U.S. Army, in 1986, development of the Combat Maneuver Training Complex, a new facility providing realistic and stressful training that approximates the combat environment.

On November 16, 1990, the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Division becomes the permanent Opposing Force on Hohenfels. In 1994, the U.S. Army withdraws from Wildflecken, and Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr becomes the main focal point for all U.S. Army training in Europe.

In 2005, The Combat Maneuver Training Center was officially named the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC).

After 72 years, the JMRC continues with multinational training exercises and trains U.S. Army Europe units and our multinational partners for current conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the globe.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3.

OLDEST NCO ACADEMY

So, the cadre utilizes the Center for Army Lessons Learned website for the most up-to-date, unclassified information to teach, coach and mentor students, said Rhodes.

The 7th Army NCOA supports the Overseas Contingency Operation and the International Security Assistance Forces through leadership training and seat allocations.

To date, the 7th Army NCOA has trained 2,350 Soldiers. Of those, 29 are International Military Students. Recently WLC class 08-10 graduated 265 U.S. and four multinational Soldiers. They graduated during May 2010. The NCOA will successfully graduate approximately 3,200 U.S. Soldiers, including approximately 86 IMS by the end of FY10.



The front gate of the U.S. Army's oldest Noncommissioned Officers Academy located in Bad Tolz, Germany, in 1970. The 7th Army NCOA is now located at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

The academy uses a comprehensive program of instruction that assists units with mandatory Army Regulation 350-1 training, which is required by every unit regardless of deployment status. Classes are directed at the team and squad level and focus on topics, such as, suicide prevention, junior leader battle-mind principles, cultural awareness, and sexual prevention and response. These classes prepare the Soldiers to become more effective leaders. The curriculum uses a combination of hands-on situations and vignettes that mirror situations commonly seen in Army units.

Additionally, the 7th Army NCOA has become the proponent for the Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) in USAREUR. The academy constructed a training facility to provide levels I and II of the program, and has assisted a Mobile Training Team to train and certify level III. The academy trained more than 3,000 U.S. and foreign Soldiers in level I, and more than 800 in level II. Additionally, the academy sent MTT's throughout Europe, training Army, Air Force and Navy service members within their local communities.

"This unique ability to provide essential command directed training enables Soldiers to train as they fight, and better prepares the Soldiers for combat Operations in the CENTCOM Theater," said Reyes.



FEATURE

The future of training - Grafenwoehr ranges evolve to reflect current trends

By Capt. Trevor P. Needham, Maneuver Branch OIC, Range Operations, JMTC

Since the Bavarian Army fired that first howitzer round 100 years ago, the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA) has prepared soldiers for operational theaters on every continent, and against every type of foe. On any given day U.S. and multinational units conducting small arms qualifications, vehicle gunnery, live-fire exercises, artillery-fire missions, airborne operations, and aviation gunnery can be found on the ranges of GTA. These capabilities make the training one of the most diverse, but also, one of the most complicated training areas within U.S. Army Europe.

"Up to 50-cal weapons systems, we can generally keep a unit on the same range, and set-up the appropriate targetry, based on the needs of the unit training," said Maj. Scott Moore, chief of GTA range operations. "There are approximately 13 multi-purpose maneuver ranges, and we can integrate dismounted/mounted maneuvers, call for close-air support, and artillery."

Grafenwoehr is one of the few places in Germany where that is possible, he said.

As any Soldier can tell you, the only thing certain in the Army is change; the GTA is no exception. U.S. and NATO forces continuously change their tactics, techniques, and training standards to meet a new and evolving threat. With U.S. and multinational forces deployed in support of missions in Iraq and Afghanistan; the training area has undergone significant changes and modifications to meet those needs.

"In the 90s, Grafenwoehr saw 12,000 Soldiers training per day," said Ray Cropps, GTA Scheduler, "today we are fully booked with 3,000."

There was a change in training and doctrinal standards, said Cropps. Today, units such as the 170th Heavy Brigade Combat Team prepare for a wide-spectrum of tasks and tactics as they prepare for deployment. Brigade Combat Teams must be trained for force-on-force tactics, as well as, counter insurgency, asymmetric warfare, and urban combat. To meet the diverse training requirements, the GTA adjusts methods for how ranges are used and scheduled for units to help them meet their training objectives.

As a former 1st Armor Division Master Gunner, Cropps remembers when Bradleys and tanks lined the tank trail, waiting for their turn at the gunnery table. At that time, units prepared for conventional, force-on-force warfare, with an emphasis on heavy and mechanized gunnery.

Just as the Infantry and Armor Branches are now combined as maneuver, so too have the ranges on the GTA combined to maneuver ranges. Ranges are no longer listed as Bradley, Scout, or Tank gunnery ranges. Ranges are now scheduled and utilized as multipurpose ranges, where a training element can conduct multiple training scenarios on one range complex.

By making ranges multipurpose, while preserving the legacy capability schedulers, schedulers maximize available land on the GTA allows the training area to do more with less.

"Upgrading the ranges to allow units to conduct multi-purpose training increases the effectiveness of training by allowing units to train several different tasks simultaneously," said Ernest L. Roth, JMTC maneuver coordination officer. "It improves our ability to train because many different training scenarios can now be trained on the same range, cutting down on the need to spend time driving to different ranges." Range 118 is probably the range that has undergone the greatest transition, said Roth.

"It was used only for tank gunnery, and the old layout consisted of one of the older range towers, set on top of an even older 'West Wall' test bunker from the 1930's, several firing positions and parallel course roads," said Roth. "Now the range is a modern multipurpose complex that allows units to train dismounted and mounted tasks, and integrate forces in a live-fire environment, while tracking the training to provide real-time feedback for after-action purposes."



Maneuvering mounted and dismounted elements on the GTA ranges is an essential and complicated task when training Soldiers. Photo: JMTC PAO

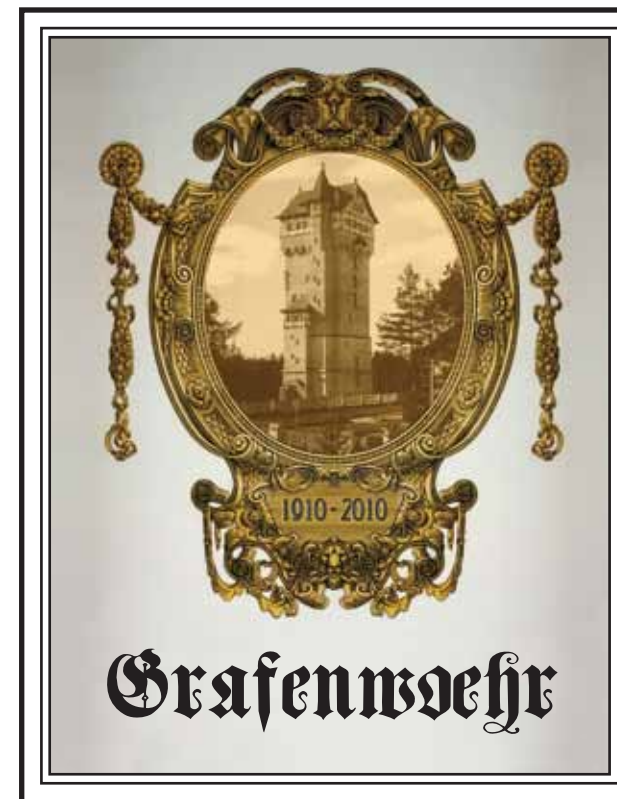
"The 2009 upgrades to Grafenwoehr Training Area's Range 118 includes two live fire villages, one of which includes five-story live fire structures and a two story 360-degree shoothouse, 3-D mannequin type targets, multiple E-type targets, day-and-night cameras, and a speaker system to provide realistic sound effects during training. Roth recalls spending up to 36 hours on a range to qualify his unit in the old days. Roth was a Soldier with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in the 80s."

Today, Soldiers from the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment use a range for an entire week to conduct dry-fire [without ammunition], blank [with blank-rounds], and live-fire iterations. The only difference being the training requirements of the unit.

Live-fire training is the standard for units preparing for deployment, but requires large amounts of land and time; as forces face new and adaptive enemies, the training area changes to meet the threat by providing the best technology and resources available.

THE HISTORY OF THE GTA

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY COL. CHRIS SORENSON
COMMANDER, U.S. ARMY GARRISON GRAFENWOEHR



On June 30, we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Grafenwoehr Training Area and with it 100 years of excellent training.

The training area was established in 1910 for the Soldiers of the Bavarian Royal Army. Since 1945, it has prepared U.S., NATO, and recently non-NATO Soldiers for their missions

around the world. It is the U.S. Army's best equipped and most modern training area outside the continental United States providing Soldiers with state-of-the-art opportunities for live and simulated training. But training isn't everything. The Grafenwoehr Training Area is also an example of the excellent partnership and cooperation between the U.S. Armed Forces and its host nation population and agencies. Every day, we partner and cooperate with the German Army, the Federal Forest Office and other host nation authorities, including the mayors and citizens of the communities around the training area, to prepare and accomplish our joint, multinational mission here.

We are proud of this outstanding friendship and cooperation and that



Together, it is our duty to preserve what we have established and to continue to shape the future together!

is why we are celebrating this anniversary together: The 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, the German Army, the Federal Forest Office and the City of Grafenwoehr without the support of each the training area would not be what it is today: an outstanding place to live and train for

our Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members. I invite all of you to take part in the events of the fest week from June 27 to July 4. We have put together a great program that includes a concert by the USAREUR band on June 27, a grand tattoo by the German Army on June 30, exhibitions in the Grafenwoehr Museum about the history of the training area and the Federal Forest Office, the local Grafenwoehr Citizens' Fest and our own 4th of July celebrations, ending the week with a spectacular fireworks display. Come out and celebrate - not only the 100th anniversary of the training area but also the friendship and cooperation with our German hosts.





1920

January -
Following the German defeat
in World War I, and the harsh
terms imposed by the Allies,
the Grafenwoehr Training Area
almost closes for good in 1919.

In fact, so many soldiers left Grafenwoehr, the local city government used empty barracks to house 74 homeless families.

In spring, a dynamic new officer takes command of the German National Army, General Hans von Seeckt. He introduces a new sense of camaraderie in the German ranks, and begins to train the army on the lessons learned from World War I and promotes new thinking and new tactics. He sees Grafenwoehr as vital to rebuilding the German army.

1921

May -
Seeckt replaces the political
GTA commandant who had
been elected two years
earlier, with the WWI veteran
Oberst Fritz Krummel.

1922

August -
Due to inflation and currency devaluation a Soldier's pay reaches 2 million Reichsmarks, as the currency loses it's value daily.

By October, Grafenwoehr citizens burn the worthless paper money in their stoves to warm their homes.

November -
Less than 200 miles south of the GTA an attempted coup d'etat, the Munich Beer Hall Putsch by the fledgling Nazi Party, led by General Erich Ludendorff and Adolf Hitler, is put-down, after days of brutal street-fighting.

1923

An early advocate of armored mechanized warfare, and fast-moving mobile armored units, Captain Heinz Guderian explores the use of tanks in an offensive role at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

Guderain becomes a familiar figure at the training area, during the next 20 years. His concept of tank warfare, is later published in 1936 under the title "*Achtung! Panzer!*", a seminal work in modern offensive tank warfare.

May -
Training activities at the GTA
accelerate. Seeckt appoints
Oberst Hoffman as the new
GTA commander.

1924

April -
Wooden Tanks! Following WWI, the German Army was prohibited from building or training with armored or tracked vehicles, but as early as 1923 the rebuilt German Army began experiments with "simulated" tanks... made of bailing wire and pressboard!

1925

In the spring of 1926 General Hans von Seeckt observes an exercise with one-tenth of the entire German Army, with more than 600 officers and 8,300 troops at the GTA. Seeckt retires shortly thereafter.

His legacy, keeping the most elite soldiers in the ranks when the allied terms of the Versailles Treaty forced the Reichswehr to purge some 20,000 of it's officers in the 1920s.

In 1926, of the 100,000 men permitted to serve in the army 40,000 were NCOs, and each of these were regarded as potential officer material.

The Artillery Observation tower at Schwartzenberg Hill, known today as the Bleidorn Tower is complet.

1926

The GTA hosted many young soldiers through-out the decade, Captain Walther von Reichenau, Majors Heinz Guderian and Erich von Manstein, Lieutenant Colonel Franz Halder and Colonel Gerd von Rundstedt, amongst others - all of whom would invent, or go on to perfect, the strategies and tactics of Blitzkrieg, in great part on the ranges of the GTA.

In 1927 Lieutenant Claus von Stauffenberg, a key leader of the German resistance to Hitler, is training on the ranges of Grafenwoehr.

1927

In the parliamentary elections of 1928 less than three-percent of Germans vote for the National Socialist "Nazi" Party.

U.S. War Department officials request Congress fund a Regular Army with an enlisted strength of 150,000 Soldiers.

1928

January -
The world economic crisis at the end of the decade critically destabilizes the government of the Weimar Republic. Various extreme political parties emerge from the civil unrest.
A world-wide Great Depression begins which will last more than a decade.

1929



Grafenwoehr
Heavy Metal,
1939

1930

The U.S. Armed Forces was limited in the 1920s and 1930s, following the Great Depression. By 1939, in response to the rise of Nazism and Japanese expansion, the U.S. Army grew considerably, but was not well-equipped or trained for war.

The U.S. Army Air Corps was reorganized in June 1941, as the U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF), but remained subordinate to ground commanders.

By June 1941, shortly before the United States was drawn into WWII, the Army had grown to nearly 1.5 million.

1931

January -
The German government
announces it will no longer
adhere to the limitations set
forth by the Versailles Treaty.

In the summer of 1932, General Heinz Guderian tests his theories of mobility and maneuverability, and the possibilities of coordinated tank maneuvers with infantry and air power.

1932

January -
Hitler is elected Chancellor.

The German National Socialist Party is on the rise.

1933

August - German President Hindenberg dies. Hitler, as Reich Chancellor, transfers the president's powers to himself and appropriates authority of the German states.

Bavaria, and all of its military posts, including the Grafenwoehr Training Area, are now directly under his authority.

1934

February -
Heavy Artillery firing
at the Training Area
commences.

March - Hitler reintroduces mandatory military service in the German Reich and the army is increased from 100,000 to 550,00 troops, and its name is changed from "Reichswehr" to "Wehrmacht."

The scope and tempo of training at the GTA grows exponentially.

1935

January -
The second great expansion
of Grafenwoehr takes place
by order of the War Ministry
in Berlin.

The GTA doubles by 35,000 acres to the west of the existing camp to accommodate the stupendous growth of the resurgent Wehrmacht, more than 3,500 civilians are relocated outside the training area.

March -
30,000 German soldiers
march into the demilitarized
Rhineland border region.

The French back-down in the face of well-trained German troops.

1936

June -
The German Ju 87, better known as the Stuka, a ground attack aircraft and form of aerial artillery, is regularly participating in tank and infantry maneuvers at the GTA. The Stuka is a key element in the early success of the German Wehrmacht attacks across Europe, beginning in 1939.

September - Hitler occupies the Czech Sudetenland.

November - Hitler orders Kristallnacht, an anti-Semitic program of hate and violence against Jews all across Germany.

1938

March -
Hitler occupies Austria.

June - Hitler visits Grafenwoehr and observes a obstacle breaching exercise. By this time the GTA is second to none in rifle and machine-gun ranges, combat infantry and armor ranges, and possesses an authentic bunker/pillbox system for training over-coming defensive obstacles.

1939

September -
Hitler attacks Poland, while the
Soviet Union closes in to occupy
large areas of eastern Poland.
Britain and France declare war
on Germany.
World War II begins.



1950

May - General Dwight D. Eisenhower visits the GTA in his final weeks as NATO Commander.

One month later, he returns to the U.S. to campaign for President.

June - The Korean War begins as Communist forces invade South Korea.

November - The U.S. Seventh Army, deactivated in 1947, is reactivated.

1951

1951 June - V and VII Corps arrive in Europe and are assigned to Seventh Army.

From 1950 to 1953 large construction projects change the face of the Training Area. The Barracks "Tunisia," "Cheb," "Kasserine," and Camps Aachen, Algiers and Normandy are added. These facilities combined are capable of housing more than 42,000 troops.

Developed in the early 1950s, the Honest John Rocket, the first U.S. battlefield, close-support nuclear weapon was fired with weighted dummy warheads.

1952



1953

March - Soviet General Secretary and Premier Joseph Stalin dies.

1954

January - U.S. Soldiers at the GTA are regularly shown government training films at the local movie theater throughout the Cold War years.



1955

May - The Soviet Union creates The Warsaw Pact, a military-treaty organization of eight nations initiated and sponsored by the Soviets. It is the Communist Bloc counter to NATO.

November - The German Bundeswehr is officially established. West Germany joins NATO.



1956

July - West Germany introduces conscription, and activates the Bundeswehr (German Armed forces).

One month later, the first German Bundeswehr soldiers arrive and are billeted at Camp Normandy at GTA.

Although early plans for the Bundeswehr called for separate bases, the U.S. establishes a co-use agreement for Camps Algier and Normandy for joint training and maneuvers.

October - The Soviet Union invades Hungary occupying the capital, Budapest, following Hungary's decision to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact. Hungarian resistance is crushed by Soviet troops and tanks.

1957

January - U.S. Forces across central Europe, including those stationed in France, are using the Grafenwoehr Training Area by this time.

August - Bundeswehr tanks and soldiers take to the Grafenwoehr Ranges.

1958

November - Pvt. Elvis Presley, the King of Rock & Roll, visits Grafenwoehr for six weeks of winter training with his unit.

1958 through 1959 - A newly remodelled Grafenwoehr Post becomes the headquarters of the Seventh Army Training Center.

In addition to the Grafenwoehr Training Area, the Hohenfels Training Area is consolidated under the command.

The Seventh Army Training Center becomes the largest training complex in Germany.

Rose Barracks becomes the home of the Seventh Army Combined Arms School,

1959





1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
<p>February - Elvis Presley returns to Grafenwoehr to train and participate in the NATO exercise "Winter Shield."</p> <p>Maneuvers involve 60,000 men of the U.S. Army and German Bundeswehr.</p> <p>Elvis, now a sergeant, shuns exceptional treatment and duty.</p> <p>In his free time Elvis occasionally visits local taverns in the city of Grafenwoehr, just past the front gate, where he signs countless autographs and patiently sits for photos with his German fans.</p>	<p>August - At midnight, August 12, units of the East German army install barbed-wire fences along the 124 miles of Allied sectors in Berlin.</p> <p>October - High Noon: Soviet and American tanks face-off at Allied Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin.</p> <p>October - Third Armored Division's General Creighton Abrams photographed in Grafenwoehr for the cover of TIME magazine.</p>	<p>June - U.S. Army Europe reaches its peak strength of 277,342 personnel.</p> <p>October - President John F. Kennedy speaks to the world in a televised speech from the Oval Office at the height of the Cuban missile crisis.</p> <p>U.S. and NATO military forces in Europe go to the highest state of alert.</p>	<p>July - The stone and barbed-wire barricades that dividing Berlin since 1961 are replaced by a permanent, 18 foot high wall around Allied sectors that make-up West Berlin.</p>	<p>October - Communist Party First Secretary (Premier) Nikita Khrushchev is deposed by the Russian government as leader of the Soviet Union.</p> <p>Leonid Brezhnev and Alexi Kosygin assume power over the state.</p>	<p>Beginning in the mid-1960s, U.S. Army Europe contributes to the war in Vietnam, by providing personnel.</p> <p>The GTA offers jungle and counter guerilla training for personnel deploying to Vietnam.</p>	<p>January - Charles de Gaulle, leader of the French government, says he will withdraw military forces from NATO.</p> <p>The United States must vacate its bases in France by the end of the year.</p> <p>Consequently, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army Headquarters merge at Heidelberg in 1967.</p> <p>December - Allies then, Allies now: Bundeswehr Forces welcome United States Army units stationed from France into Germany.</p>	<p>March - President Johnson announces plans to withdraw two divisions from Europe.</p>	<p>August - Approximately 200,000 Warsaw Pact soldiers, led by the Soviet Union invade Czechoslovakia, for the second time.</p> <p>The soldiers were sent to stop political reforms and freedoms and set-up a new government more closely aligned with the Kremlin.</p>	<p>January - The largest NATO Exercise to take place in Europe, the first Exercise REFORGER (from REturn of FORces to GERmany) begins.</p> <p>About 12,000 Soldiers come from the U.S. to join the 220,000-man, U.S. Seventh Army in West Germany.</p> <p>In addition, 96 F-4 fighter-bombers attend from Stateside to participate.</p> <p>The Soviet news agency, Izvestia, describes REFORGER as, "a new western plot directed at increasing tension in Europe." The exercise is hosted in Bavaria at Grafenwoehr, 50 miles from the Czechoslovak border.</p>



1970

1970 - President Nixon's Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird visits Grafenwoehr, where he meets Helmut Schmidt. Schmidt will later become Chancellor of West Germany.

Historical note: Every Cold War West German Chancellor with the exception of one, Konrad Adenauer visits the Grafenwoehr Training Area in one capacity or another from 1947 to 1991.

May - The M-16A1 rifle, the TOW anti-tank weapon, the AH-1G Cobra and the OH-58A observation helicopter are added to U.S. Army Europe's arsenal.

1971

November - A Pentagon reorganization study proposes adding more combat units to USAREUR.



1972

April - V Corps Headquarters and the Terrace Club in Frankfurt are bombed by terrorist group Red Army Faction (RAF). The RAF would bomb USAREUR headquarters in Heidelberg one month later.

1972 to 1973: The Seventh Army Training Center's responsibilities dramatically expand. It is now responsible for all U.S. Army training activities in Europe.

Combat support courses from the Combat Support Training Center in Oberammergau are moved to Rose Barracks.

1973



1974

1975

January - The 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry is activated at Lee Barracks in Mainz, and moves to Vicenza, Italy. At the same time, the 8th Infantry Division's 1st and 2nd Battalions, 509th Infantry were discontinued and replaced by two mechanized battalions, making the division fully mechanized.

The year 1975 marked the end of the Army's largest logistical organization, the U.S. Theater Army Support Command. The Command has more than 69,000 U.S. and local national civilians, supporting over 400,000 U.S. Soldiers in Europe and the Middle East.

1976

July - The Seventh Army Training Center becomes the 7th Army Training Command (7th ATC). Established on July 1, 1976, the command is responsible for the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels Training Areas, the Combined Arms Training Center at Rose Barracks, near Vilseck, and the Training Support Activity, Europe. The 7th ATC facilitates and manages training, including the development of concepts, requirements, and the evaluation of training readiness.

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), which is critical to moving data on the modern Internet, is introduced in 1976.



1977

January - RAF terrorists bomb U.S. Army barracks of the 42nd Artillery Brigade at Giessen. Several RAF members are killed in the ensuing firefight.

August - The first A-10 attack aircraft arrive in Europe and are put through their paces at the Grafenwoehr Training Area for the international press. The A-10, affectionately known as "the Warthog" is a deadly tank killer that supports the infantry.

1978



1979

December - The Soviet Army invades Afghanistan.



1980

November - Operation "Real Train" begins at the Hohenfels Training Area. Participating M603A Tanks are the most advanced of the M60 series, but are later replaced by the M1 Abrams in 1984.



1981

From 1981 to 1993, the U.S. Army extends and enlarges Rose Barracks, the southern tip of the Grafenwoehr Training Area. The total cost of renovations and enlargement exceeds one billion U.S. dollars.

September - The Red Army Faction (RAF) carry out an unsuccessful rocket propelled grenade attack against the car carrying the U.S. Army's West German Commander Frederick J. Kroesen in Heidelberg.



1982

From the July 1982 Spearhead magazine: "An eight-inch howitzer from the 1st Bn., 40th Field Artillery fires from underneath its camo at the Grafenwoehr Training Area before rumbling down the range road to another firing point."



1983

First M2/3 and M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System is fired at Grafenwoehr.

The M270 is a mobile unit, well-suited for the shoot-and-scoot tactic. It can fire its rockets rapidly, and quickly move-away to avoid returning counter-battery fire.



1984

1984 - 1985: The first M1A1 Tanks arrive for trials at Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels.

1985

August - Major upgrades are completed at Grafenwoehr facilities, and the ranges are renumbered.

SIMNET, a wide area network with vehicle simulators and displays for real-time distributed combat simulation is released for testing in 1985, by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

SIMNET is subsequently fielded in 1987, and was used for training until successor programs came online in the 1990s.

1986

April - The nuclear reactor at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union melts-down and explodes releasing a cloud of radio-activity into the atmosphere over eastern Europe and Scandinavia.



1987

July - Soviet Forces withdraw from Afghanistan. Civil war erupts among tribesmen and multiple rival factions seeking control of the country.



1988



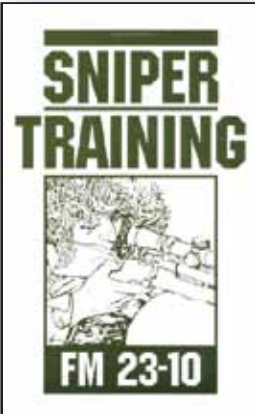
The Combat Maneuver Training Center (CMTCC) is activated at Hohenfels. The CMTCC mission is to provide realistic combined arms training for U.S. Army Europe, and Seventh Army's maneuver battalion task forces in force-on-force exercises.

The USAREUR Soldier in the mid 1980s was many things. More than any other institution, the Army had become America's great melting pot. As a member of an all-volunteer Army the Soldiers assigned to U.S. Army Europe experienced cohesion, teamwork and esprit de corps in picturesque Europe, and by 1987 the Army's recruitment slogan, "Be All You Can Be" was an open invitation to talent from every part of the country, and to individuals from every social or ethnic background.

1989

November - Freedom Prevails: After weeks of civil unrest the East German government announces its citizens will be allowed to visit West Berlin, causing a flood of East Germans to the west, and bringing about the fall of the Berlin Wall, more than a quarter century after it was erected.



1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<p>January - Communist governments fall in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Romania, signalling the end of the Soviet empire in Europe. Latvia and Estonia declare independence five months later.</p> <p>January - "Centurion Shield," the last REFORGER is hosted 60 miles west of Grafenwoehr.</p> <p>August - Saddam Hussein invades Kuwait. The U.S. responds with Operation Desert Shield. Seventh Army Training Command begins training units for deployment. VII Corps deploys to the region in Nov. where it plays a key role in the "100 Hour War" that liberates Kuwait in February 1991.</p>	<p>February - Operation Desert Storm begins. In one week, the U.S. led coalition pushes Iraqi forces out of Kuwait and across the border into Iraq, where the coalition halts 150 miles south of Baghdad.</p> <p>June - Yugoslavia begins to break apart. The Dayton Accords end the ethnic war, five years later, in December 1995.</p> <p>August - The Seventh U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy relocates and becomes a tenant unit of the GTA.</p> <p>December - Soviet Premier Gorbachev announces the break-up of the Soviet Union.</p>	<p>U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) begins reducing forces in Germany, closing facilities and communities.</p> <p>Area Support Teams in Amberg and Bindlach are closed as part of the USAREUR-wide draw down.</p> 	<p>July - NATO's Allied Land Forces Central Europe becomes operational at U.S. Army Europe's headquarters in Heidelberg with a staff of seven nations: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. The troops of these armies become regular fixtures on the on GTA ranges in years to come.</p> <p>September - In an unusual statistical milestone, for the first time in U.S. history, Army retirees outnumber active-duty personnel because of radical downsizing of the U.S. Army.</p>	<p>April - The 283rd Base Support Battalion inactivates and the Wildflecken Training Area is returned to the German government.</p> <p>October - 7th Army Training Center hosts the largest, most technologically complex, joint and combined computer-assisted training exercise in the U.S. Army to date, ATLANTIC RESOLVE 94, which replaces the annual REFORGER exercises.</p>	<p>October - The Nuremberg AST at Merrill Barracks is closed and returned to the German government.</p> <p>December - To enforce a peaceful resolution to the on-going conflict in the Balkans, 20,000 American Soldiers deploy to Bosnia for Operation Joint Endeavor. In the first three months, the U.S. Air Force flies 3,000 missions, more than 15,600 troops, and delivers more than 30,100 tons of cargo. Many of the combat and support elements are trained, then airlifted from the GTA directly to the Balkans.</p>	<p>January - 7th ATC participates in Task Force Eagle peace support certification operations prior to their departure for Operation Joint Endeavor. The JMTC maintains an active role in training units deploying to the Balkans as part of Operation Joint Guard, and deployments to Albania, Macedonia, and Kosovo for Operation Joint Guardian.</p> <p>June - NATO deploys Kosovo Force (KFOR) to promote stability in the Balkans. USAREUR's Task Force Falcon deploys as the main element of the Multinational Brigade.</p> <p>September - After years of civil war Kabul and Afghanistan fall to the Taliban.</p> 	<p>1997 - 2000: The draw-down forces the closure of many USAREUR bases in Germany. With few exceptions the bases are turned over to the German government.</p> <p>Planning begins for the construction of a Multi-Purpose Range Complex at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.</p> 	<p>March - Operation Allied Force, NATO combat operations against Serbia, commence. USAREUR deploys Task Force Hawk to Albania in support of the operation.</p> <p>May - The GTA Range 117 modernization and expansion project is completed to meet the new gunnery requirements of the M1A2 Tank.</p> <p>Likewise, Range 204 is completed to meet the standards of the Operation Desert Storm Bradley Fighting Vehicle.</p> <p>Fielding of the new M109A6 Paladin Howitzer and German Howitzer 2000 results in new procedures and firing areas to allow realistic training with new artillery systems.</p>	<p>NATO turns 50.</p>



2009



2010



On June 30, 1910,
Soldiers from the 2nd Royal Bavarian
Foot Artillery Regiment fired the first round
on the Grafenwoehr Training Area.
It fell 800 meters short of its target.

In the spirit of cooperation and partnership
that exists between the U.S. and the
German militaries, 100 years later,
a crew of German Soldiers fired a ceremonial
round to honor a century of training excellence.

Also, on this day, a U.S. crew fired a live-round
"on target" to inaugurate the next 100 years.

It is through mutual support that
we can achieve the ultimate goal -
peace.



CELEBRATING THE HISTORY MEANS CELEBRATING INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOO

By Ryan Meyer, Museum Curator, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment

This June 30, 2010, marks the 100th Anniversary of the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA). For some, the mere fact this installation has endured for 100 years is, in itself, a reason to celebrate. However, one must look at the events, which articulate the 100-year history to appreciate what this anniversary means to the community, U.S., German and multinational, it serves.

When the cannon crew from the 3rd Bavarian Artillery Regiment fired the first-shot that summer morning in 1910, it signified the official opening of the training area, but was also the beginning of a long legacy of excellence for the GTA. From the very beginning and before the World War I, units trained to prepare for war, using the most advanced technology and weapon systems of the day. Throughout its 100 year history, GTA's ranges have hosted state-of-the-art weapons, such as, balloons and biplanes, the German Army's standard machine gun, the MG 08, the Honest John rocket, and today's first-person training simulator, Stryker Combat Vehicles and Virtual Battlespace 2.

A residual of the training — during the past 100-years, Soldiers walk away from Grafenwoehr confident, motivated and prepared to successfully face the challenges of combat.

The secret to the GTA's longevity is its ability to be at the cutting-edge of instruction and preparedness. This, in large part, is due to the amazing Soldiers and Civilians who come to work, believing in a cause greater than themselves. Individuals committed to giving 110 percent, day-after-day, to ensure their missions are accomplished; therefore, insuring Grafenwoehr as a community of excellence.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, and the stories of days-gone-by, remember to celebrate each other, and the importance of our own individual contributions, for we are the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

On June 30, 2010, there is an opportunity to visit the iconic Grafenwoehr water tower. Visitors will see an aerial view of the Garrison, and learn about the events of the past 100 years. For those that are not able to make this historic celebration, you can visit the JMTC website at: www.hqjmtc.army.mil/Info/History for more information.

FEATURE

Replicating reality: training aids, devices and simulators

By Daniel Feazelle Chief, Regional Training Support Center Grafenwoehr & Jim Coon, Chief, Training Support Center Hohenfels

In the 1920s simulated tanks conducted maneuvers at the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA). The German army was prohibited from using heavily armored or tracked vehicles following World War I, so the rebuilt German army made tanks of bailing wire and cardboard, and modern tank tactics, later called 'Blitzkrieg' or "lightning war," were perfected using simulated tools.

In 2010, the U.S. Army doesn't use cardboard tanks anymore, today's Army and multinational troops train at the GTA using innovative training aids and devices to enhance training at GTA. Located in 17 cities and six countries throughout Europe, the Training Support Activities Europe (TSAE) identifies, acquires, manages, and sustains the training resources to support all levels of training for every major unit and organization.



The Common Driver's Trainer (CDT) at Vilseck
Photo: Directorate of Simulations and Training Support.

Having served more than 30-years in the Army, Harry Martin, a retired Command Sgt. Major and contract employee at Grafenwoehr remembers using another Soldier, as a buddy to practice first-aid training. Today, advanced medical training aids are used at home-station and are available at the local Training Support Center (TSC).

The Regional Training Support Center (RTSC) provides state-of-the-art training support to both tenant and rotational units in the RTSC Graf area of operation. RTSC Grafenwoehr maintains, and supports two robust and uniquely different Training Support Centers at Vilseck and Hohenfels.

"The SIMMAN, Mega Code Kelley and Ultimate Hurt Man are mannequins that replicate heartbeat, pulse and even provide feedback by talking to the Soldier, who is administering first aid," said Martin. "You can give them IV's. You can penetrate the chest. The mannequins can be dressed with a sucking chest wound, or with a missing limb for the correct treatment."



SimMan is a portable and advanced patient simulator.
Photo: Directorate of Simulations and Training Support.

The mannequins die, if not properly treated, Martin said. Today's simulators and simulations make replicating training easier and more realistic than in the past. "In the late '50s and '60s we used the 'Puff Board' for call-for-fire missions," he said. A call-for-fire mission requires an observer to call an aircraft to drop-bombs or munitions on an area that may be nearby troops or civilians. "Once the Soldier gave the coordinates for the fire-mission the instructor would move the little puff ball to the approximate location, and then the Soldier was required to ask for a correction to complete the fire mission."

Now at Vilseck and Hohenfels, Soldiers use an advanced Call-for-Fire Trainer that replicates realistic fire missions in a virtual environment that trains Artillery with Close Air Support, Naval Gunfire, and Mortars.

Today's simulators are more reliable because computers track a Soldier's progress.

"During the 1970s and 1980s, you would put a pencil inside the barrel of a .45 caliber pistol," said Steve Wesnoski, the regional training aids, devices, and simulators officer for Grafenwoehr,

Hohenfels and Vilseck. Wesnoski retired from the Army after 29-years of service. "You would site a spot on a paper taped to the wall."

When the Soldier fired the weapon the pencil would come-out and mark the paper, he said. Today's training device, the Engagement Skills Trainer uses actual weapons to fire lasers at virtual targets. A computer notates the hits and misses.

"We went from putting pencils to paper to computerized simulators," Wesnoski said. "We train with every weapons system from a pistol to an antitank weapon using the EST."

The local Training Support Centers (TSCs) allow Soldiers to train using advanced systems like the EST, which replicates day-and-night firing, using more than 100 scenarios.



The Stryker Mobile Gun System (MGS) is a gunnery training simulator for vehicle commander/gunner teams in the Stryker MGS vehicle. It is rapidly deployable and features a high-fidelity crew compartment, replicating the vehicle's turret and fire control system. The system is designed to develop and sustain individual, crew and platoon precision gunnery skills, to a level of proficiency allowing transition to live-fire training or combat gunnery.
Photo: Directorate of Simulations and Training Support.